



## **Emergency Support Function– 6: Mass Care, Housing and Human Services STATE SHELTERING PLAN SUMMARY**

Coordinated by: Louisiana Department of Social Services

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### **Introduction:**

Emergency Sheltering includes the use of pre-identified shelter sites in existing facilities within an area of risk, creation of temporary facilities or the temporary construction of shelters, and use of facilities outside the incident area should evacuation be necessary.

Emergency Sheltering includes location readiness, facility management and staffing, as well as, the distribution of comfort and relief supplies, feeding, emergency first aid and tracking of evacuated individuals and families in each facility. Sheltering is largely provided at the parish and regional level in conjunction with parish governments and local voluntary organizations, coordinated by state ESF6 (lead by Louisiana Department of Social Services). In this document the locally identified and operated shelters will be referred to as general population shelters (GPS.)

In addition to GPS, the Department of Social Services, in partnership with the Department of Health and Hospitals, runs sheltering facilities for medical special needs citizens. These unique shelters will be referred to as medical special needs shelters (MSNS.)

The State of Louisiana will operate large capacity sheltering facilities which are established for the purpose of meeting the needs of citizens who are not able to evacuate via their own transportation. In the event that a city/state-assisted evacuation is activated, citizens will be informed where they will be sheltered when they board a means of transportation. These shelters will be referred to as critical transportation needs shelters (CTNS.)

Pursuant to Act 285 of the 2006 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the State of Louisiana constructed a shelter facility to house the state's registered sex offenders. This shelter will be referred to as the shelter for unique populations (SUP) and is located on remote state-owned property in East Baton Rouge Parish. It is on the grounds of the Joint Emergency Services Training Center (JESTC), an 1,800-acre site owned by Louisiana State Police off U.S. 61 in the northern portion of the parish.

### **Situational-Specific Nature of Plan:**

Emergency planning requires plans that are flexible to meet the needs of the situation at hand. Emergencies may come in the way of natural disasters, man-made disasters and other events. The nature of this plan is such that the situation and needs of the citizens will determine which shelters are open, for how long and by whom. As an example, hurricane planning does not allow for a statement as to which shelters, in which parishes, will or will not definitely open, for the projected size, strength and path of the storm may largely dictate such.

### **Elements of the Sheltering Plan:**

#### **A. Medical Special Needs Shelters (MSNS) –**

DSS in coordination with DHH is prepared to stand up and operate medical special needs shelters for patients requiring medical assistance with daily activities but who do not have conditions severe enough to be admitted to or sheltered in hospitals. DSS is responsible for the Mass Care, Housing and Human Services to this population and DHH is responsible for the medical coordination and medical staffing to the facilities listed below. Dr. Guidry, the state health officer, has advised that MSNS locations shall not be published at this time.

#### **B. Critical Transportation Needs Shelters (CTNS) –**

The State of Louisiana will operate large capacity sheltering facilities so that citizens who are evacuated out of harms way via city/state assisted plans have a specified destination of shelter and buses will have a specified location to transport such citizens. Coordination plans are in ongoing development for additional Critical Transportation Needs (CTN) shelters. Negotiations are on-going with several property owners at this time including some that were used last year. However since the leases are still not signed, the locations are not ripe for sharing. When the leases are finalized, the information will be shared.

#### **C. General Population Shelters (GPS) – for Self-Transporting Evacuees**

During an evacuation in anticipation of a hurricane, “Host” parishes (determined in the incident to be not in risk area), will operate (sometimes via partner such as American Red Cross) shelters within their jurisdictions. Activation of any shelters, as stated above, is determined by the situation.

Identification of these types of shelters has been the priority of local emergency preparedness officials. Their expertise and commitment to address Louisiana’s need has been fully leveraged via the sites identified in this category. Facilities included in this listing reflect the parishes’ maximized ability to manage, staff, logistically support and secure such operations. All GPS facilities may be supplemented by State ESF-6 support upon request from parish OEPs. The parishes continue to update their shelter data as changes are required and final determinations are made.

#### **D. Shelter Summary by Type**

Medical Special Needs Shelters (MSNS)	1,400
Critical Transportation Need Shelters - In State and Out of State (CTNS)	24,000
General Population Shelters (GPS)	67,000
Shelter for Unique Population (SUP)	280
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92,680</b>

#### **E. Continuity of Identification of Shelter Space for use as CTNS/GPS**

The State's effort to identify more shelters to be used as CTNS/GPS is continuing. ESF6 and DOA have taken a comprehensive look at all in-state facilities that may possibly serve as shelters. The Parishes have worked aggressively towards identifying shelters that they have full capacity to open and run. Planning numbers are being used that indicate that 250,000 shelter spaces may be needed if all 12 southern parishes were to evacuate. To fill the gap that remains between the likely need and the currently-identified shelter space, the state has requested assistance from the Federal government.

#### **Reverse Evacuation/ Post Event and/or Transitional Housing Resources:**

In the event a disaster or threat has passed and damage is assessed to have been minimal, evacuees will be allowed to return to their homes. Out-processing of evacuees will be tracked upon exit from the shelter. They will board buses via ESF-1 and be returned to their initial point of origin.

Emergency Shelter, Extended Shelter and Transitional Shelter strategies for the provision of assistance with short- and long-term housing needs of victims may include the planning for and developing of access to rental assistance, temporary housing, loans for repair or replacement and other related activities in events where damage assessments reveal the need. As the primary State agency responsible for the coordination of this delivery system, ESF-6 will provide knowledgeable staffing for these functions that will be implemented.